

FOR A FAIR ELECTION LAW.

WE were appointed by the mass-meeting of citizens of Louisville, March 5th to send through the State printed matter urging the repeal of the Goebel Election Law and the adoption of a fair election law. None of us are politicians, office-holders or office-seekers. This committee has nothing to do with either party, or the Honest Election League, or any corporation, or any political organization. We are simply private citizens who feel interested in the peace, welfare, and good name of the State. Most of us are Democrats, but we all believe that the Goebel Law is essentially undemocratic; that it has already brought great trouble upon our people; that so long as it stands we shall have no peace, that there can be no fair reason for retaining it upon the statute books, and that all men should desire its repeal. That the law is undemocratic is plain upon its face. It gives absolute control of the appointment of all election officers everywhere in the State to a Central Board of three State Election Commissioners (Messrs. Poyntz, Yontz, and Fulton) who were not elected by the people, who are not responsible to the people, who can not be removed by the people. It gives these three men also the supreme power to make the final count of votes in all contested elections, and to declare who shall have the offices and who shall not. The only exception to this rule is in the case of a contested election of governor or lieutenant governor, which the Constitution provided shall be determined by the legislature; but the members of the legislature get their credentials from county election commissioners whom the State Board appoints and may remove at will at any instant. If one of the board dies or resigns, the people can not fill his place. It is filled by the other two. If two die or resign, their places are filled by the other one. When Pryor and Ellis resigned, Poyntz exercised the extraordinary power of appointing Fulton and Yontz to their places.

The principle of the law is undemocratic, and no amendment yet suggested can make it democratic. No amendment can do so which does not really amount to a total repeal. It takes from the people of each county the right they always before had, to elect their own county officer (formerly their county judge) to appoint the election officers for each precinct in the county. Until the Goebel Law was enacted the people of each county, upon discovering any unfairness or fraud in the appointment of election officers in that county, always had it in their power to punish the fraud by defeating the man who committed it at the next election. Under the Goebel Law that power is taken from them. If the State Board wants fraud, it has only to appoint men on the county boards who are willing to do its bidding. If they refuse, the State Board can remove them at any moment. In a word, the Goebel Law subjects every election in every county in the State to the arbitrary power of the three members of the State Board, and then makes them the final judges to say who is elected in every case, save only in the case of Governor or Lieutenant Governor. The Czar of Russia has not more absolute power over his subjects than these three Election Commissioners could exercise over the people of Kentucky, provided they have the disposition to exercise it and are not afraid to do it. Such a dependence of popular rights upon the will of three men (however good and wise) whom the people can not elect, must not only be abhorrent to every man who really believes in the most essential of all Democratic principles, the right of the people to be governed by men of their own choosing, but it is political slavery. Will true Kentuckians approve it? Ought they to do so? Should not every man who loves his State, who believes in free government, who would have the people of Kentucky a free people, who believes in fair play, use his influence for the repeal of this law? We make no appeal as party men. In this emergency parties are nothing to us. There are men who can not understand this sentiment. We trust there are many who can and will. We appeal to the moral sense of the people. We accuse no one. We defend no one. We recognize the errors, the wrongs, the crimes of politicians of both parties. But we believe that the great mass of men of both parties want what is honorable, right and fair. It is these that we earnestly urge to consider what we say and to use every endeavor to secure the prompt and total repeal of this undemocratic and dangerous election law. It has already done great harm. If it is not repealed, it will do far greater harm hereafter. It was a Democratic measure, and therefore our main appeal must needs be to Democrats. We ask each of these to calmly consider whether the honor and the peace of our State would not be furthered by the repeal of the law. We ask him whether its retention will not be a plain confession of weakness by the Democratic party, and prove that it is afraid of the people on a fair vote and a fair count? We ask him if it would not even prove that the Democratic party—the party which in former years, under a fair election law, always honestly carried the State by large majorities—has been dragged down by its short-sighted and selfish leaders to the dishonorable practice of securing by a false count offices which they formerly won in battle? If that is not the purpose of those leaders who oppose the repeal of the law, we ask every fair-minded Democrat why those leaders are unwilling to let the people of each county elect the man or men who are to appoint the election officers for that county? Why do they want to leave power over elections in the hands of three men on the State board, all of whom, or a controlling majority of whom, are Democrats?

No amendment which does not amount to a repeal will leave the law anything but what it now is—despotic. The amendment proposed by Senator Blackburn and recommended by the recent Democratic Convention, to the effect that the Republican party shall be given a minority representation on the State Board, is pernici. It would not only leave complete control of the board's action in the hands of the Democratic majority of its members, but it does not answer the objection that the board is not elected by the people, is not responsible to the people, and has power to nullify the votes of the people.

Again, the law is not only undemocratic; on its face it is unfair. To leave to partisans of one party the appointment of all the election officers of the State is plainly unfair. It can not but result in fraud. Such frauds are sure to provoke more bad feeling and probably bloodshed. The State must suffer. It will take years for Kentucky to recover from the bad effects of what has already occurred under the Goebel Law. It would be sheer madness for the great body of Democrats to permit a few selfish leaders to prevent the repeal of a law which party policy as well as fair dealing and the peace and good name of the State demand.

Our regular judges under the Constitution are elected by the people. The county judge is elected by the people of the county. If the county is Democratic, the judge will be Democratic. If it is Republican, he will be a Republican. The circuit judge is elected by the people of his circuit, and will be of the party having a majority in that circuit. The same is true of the Court of Appeals judges. This is as it should be. The judge being elected by the people is responsible to the people and can be defeated for reelection if they wish. This is democracy; true home-rule democracy. But although not called judges, the most powerful judges in Kentucky are the three State Election Commissioners who are above the people and judge of elections. Every judge in Kentucky will hereafter depend for his place on the certificate of these three men. They can control the election of the legislators who are to decide contests for governor and lieutenant governor, and, every four years, re-elect State election commissioners even more easily than they control the election of other State officers; for all they have to do is to make the county election commissioners give certificates of election to a majority of legislative candidates who are pledged to re-elect them. That majority can then decide who shall be legislators, and turn out any man whom they can not control. Not only are these three State Election Commissioners the most powerful judges in the State, whose decision upon the vital question of elections is final and not reviewable by any of the courts provided by the Constitution, but they constitute the only court in Kentucky which the very object of the law is to make partisan. To any man who has a sense of justice this is appalling.

Suppose the Constitution of the State, instead of allowing the people to elect them, had provided that the judges of the Court of Appeals should all be Democrats or all Republicans; would the fair-minded people of Kentucky ever have approved it? And yet we have seen that the State Board of Election Commissioners, in the all-important matter of elections, is above the Court of Appeals. That court holds itself powerless to correct any injustice or any fraud, however flagrant, which these three all-powerful State Election Commissioners may perpetrate. The spirit of Anglo-Saxon liberty is dead, indeed, in Kentucky, if, after all we have witnessed under this Goebel Election Law, the people will longer tolerate it or any pretended modification of it.

Not as partisans, but as citizens who have an interest in the State, we appeal to you, not as partisans but patriots, to speak out like men. Talk to your neighbors and demand of your leaders and representatives the unconditional repeal of this election law, not merely as plainly the best policy of the Democratic party, but as demanded for the peace, welfare, and honor of the State.

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A FALSE ALARM.

It Came at a Most Inopportune Time For the Pretty Angler.

"And it all came from a little, petty, miserable, insignificant, 'nickel plated alarm clock that cost me just 60 cents at a bargain sale!" exclaimed the pretty girl in blue, with flashing eyes, to her sympathetic friend. "I haven't the slightest idea why I bought it unless it was because it was so cheap, for goodness knows I didn't need it! But buy it I did and carried it home, where I bragged of my bargain all the rest of the day. It wouldn't run more than half the time, and finally I turned it over to my little sister to play with."

"You know the time I have had with that eligible young man and how I have quarreled with every girl friend I know who has dared to look at him? But you don't know how many nights I have wasted sitting up planning a campaign that would be successful!"

"Well, he called the other evening, and I served notice on the rest of the family that we wanted the drawing room to ourselves that evening, for I felt sure that the supreme moment had arrived. I wasn't disappointed. We were sitting side by side on a divan, quite by accident, looking at some engravings when he began, and I tried to look as if I was awfully surprised. But he hadn't spoken more than three words before that miserable alarm clock went off right under us, where my little sister had left it when she was through playing with it."

"From the way the young man jumped you would have thought that he was a part of the alarm and always acted that way when the alarm was sprung. He made for the door, mumbling something that I didn't catch on account of the noise that the alarm made, and he was outdoors before the din ceased and gave me a chance to collect my wits. And to think that it was all caused by a little, miserable, petty!" The pretty girl in blue gave it up and burst out crying.—Detroit Free Press.

The Appetite of a Goat

Is envied by all poor dyspeptics whose Stomach and Liver are out of order. All such should know that Dr. King's New Life Pills, the wonderful Stomach and Liver Remedy, gives a splendid appetite sound digestion and a regular bodily habit that insures perfect health and great energy. Only 25c. at Short & Haynes' drug store.

Poor Shots.

All the principal correspondents at the front, among them Mr. Burleigh, Mr. Villiers, the war artist; The Daily News and The Times Making correspondents as well as Sir Howard Vincent have testified to the poor shooting in unmistakable terms. Mr. Villiers' experience was a particularly striking one. While asleep in his Cape cart on the veldt he was ineffectually potted at 100 yards off by three gentlemen in khaki, who mistook him for a Boer farmer. As he tersely puts it, "I never felt anywhere so safe as when under my countrymen's fire." An analysis of the "withering rifle fire of the British advance" shows that in very few instances was a Boer hit more than once, while many of our men had several Manner bullets through them, in some instances as many as 12 and 13. English as well as foreign doctors in Boer hospitals report that almost all the wounded Boers come to their injuries by artillery fire. Dr. von Gernet states "that the British rifle fire is almost quite without effect," which, if the instances I can cite of regulars who were hurled to the front who had never fired a service rifle in their lives be at all general, can hardly rouse surprise.—Nineteenth Century.

Woman's Rights.

Many women suffer all sorts of so called "female weaknesses" just because their kidneys are out of order and they have a right to know Foley's Kidney Cure is just what is needed by most ailing women.—Moorman & Owen.

Why He Ate Salad.

Mrs. Greene—Charles, I was astonished at the way you devoured that salad tonight. You know you always said you detested salad.

Mr. Greene—Yes, love, but I didn't know that there was another way of making it than yours.—Boston Transcript.

The Eminent Kidney and Bladder Specialist.



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There is a disease prevailing in this country most dangerous because so deceptive. Many sudden deaths are caused by it—heart disease, pneumonia, heart failure or apoplexy are often the result of kidney disease. If kidney trouble is allowed to advance the kidney-poisoned blood will attack the vital organs, or the kidneys themselves break down and waste away cell by cell. Then the richness of the blood—the albumen—leaks out and the sufferer has Bright's Disease, the worst form of kidney trouble.

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VALUABLE INFORMATION.

To aid subscribers in forming their estimate, we furnish the following data

Year	Total Population	Increase	Per Cent
1790	3,929,214	929,214	31
1800	5,308,483	1,379,269	35
1810	7,320,881	2,021,398	37
1820	9,638,453	2,317,572	32
1830	13,860,020	3,221,567	33
1840	17,069,453	3,209,433	33
1850	23,191,876	6,122,423	35
1860	31,443,331	8,251,455	35
1870	38,558,371	7,115,040	22
1880	50,155,783	11,597,412	30
1890	62,622,250	12,466,467	25

The population for 1900 at an increase of 21 per cent over the population would be 75,772,922. (An increase of 13,150,672.)

At an increase of 22 per cent it would be 76,399,144 (An increase of 13,776,894.)

At an increase of 23 per cent it would be 77,025,366. (An increase of 14,403,116.)

At an increase of 24 per cent it would be 77,651,588 (An increase of 15,029,338.)

At an increase of 25 per cent it would be 78,277,812 (An increase of 15,655,562.)

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In case of a tie, or that two or more estimators are equally correct, prizes will be divided equally between them.

This contest will close one month before the population has been officially announced by the director of the United States Census at Washington, D. C., and THE BRECKENRIDGE NEWS will announce the date when the guessing will close.

PRIZES TO BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

To the nearest correct guess	\$15,000
To the 2nd	5,000
To the 3rd	1,000
To the 4th	500
To the 5th	300
To the 6th	200
To the 7th	100
To the 8th	90
To the 9th	80
To the 10th	75
To the 11th	60
To the 12th	50
To the 13th	40
To the 14th	35
To the 15th	30
To the 16th	25
To the 17th	20
To the 18th	15
To the 19th	15
To the 20th	15
To the next 150 nearest correct guesses	\$5.00 each amounting to 750
To the next 100 nearest correct guesses	\$4.00 each, amounting to 400
To the next 100 nearest correct guesses	\$2.50 each, amounting to 250
To the next 200 nearest correct guesses	\$2.00 each, amounting to 400
To the next 400 nearest correct guesses	\$1.00 amounting to 400
Total, 1,000 prizes, amounting to	\$25,000

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MY GUESS _____

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